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Agri-News

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BANNER YEAR FOR TENNESSEE CROPS

Tennessee crop producers experienced a banner year during 2001, establishing 10 new state records, according to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS). The state's cotton farmers produced the highest average yields and the largest number of bales since records first began to be kept in 1866. Hay producers also set new records for acreage and production, while record high yields were reached by alfalfa hay producers. Corn farmers achieved record high yields on both their grain and silage crops, as did Dark Air-Cured tobacco growers. TASS State Statistician, Debra Kenerson noted, "This has been an exceptional year for farmers in the Volunteer State. The skill and technique of the Tennessee farmer, along with some cooperation from Mother Nature, has given us a year unlike any we have seen." She added, "After two straight years of drought conditions in the late summer and fall months, crop producers were due for more normal weather." Survey results also showed the highest soybean yield and production since 1997, and the largest grain sorghum production since 1994. In contrast, quota and allotment reductions during 2001 led to a decrease in acreage and production of all the tobacco crops grown in the state. Burley tobacco acreage dropped to its lowest level since 1927, while production fell to its lowest poundage in 15 years.

RECORD COTTON YIELD AND PRODUCTION

Cotton production in Tennessee is estimated at 975,000 bales, up 37 percent from 2000 and a new state record. This record production surpassed the previous record in 1994 by 90,000 bales. Producers planted 620,000 acres during 2001 of which 615,000 acres were harvested, both up 50,000 acres from a year earlier and the largest acreage since 1995. Yields averaged a record 761 pounds per acre, up 158 pounds from 2000. Producers had near ideal weather conditions this past spring and were able to plant the crop in record time. Timely rains throughout the growing season helped keep the crop in mostly good condition. The majority of the state's cotton had been harvested by the second week in November, on pace with normal.

EXCELLENT YEAR FOR CORN CROP

Tennessee crop producers experienced an excellent corn crop in 2001. The final yield of 132 bushels per acre, was down one bushel from November, but up 18 bushels 2000. This is the highest yield since 1992 and a new state record. The State planted 680,000 acres of corn with 620,000 acres harvested for grain and 55,000 for silage. Total grain production at 81.8 million bushels was 24 percent above 2000 and the largest production since 1921. Silage yields were a record 19.0 tons per acre, up 2 tons from the previous year, while production totaled 1.05 million tons. The crop received timely showers and benefitted from the excellent weather conditions during 2001.

HIGHEST SOYBEAN YIELD SINCE 1997

The State's final yield, at 34 bushels per acre, was up 9 bushels from 2000 and the highest since 1997. Soybean production, at 35.7 million bushels, was up 24 percent from the previous year and the highest since 1997. Producers planted 1,080,000 acres and harvested 1,050,000 acres in 2001, both down 100,000 acres from 2000. It was an exceptional spring for planting soybeans in Tennessee. Weather provided excellent conditions for soybean development with timely rains and moderate temperatures.

(OVER)

TOBACCO PRODUCTION DOWN FROM 2000

Tennessee’s final burley production at 64.0 million pounds, was down 10 percent from 2000 and the lowest production since 1986. Growers harvested 32,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year earlier and the smallest acreage since 1927. Yield per acre averaged 2,000 pounds, up 80 pounds from the previous year and the highest yield in 7 years. Production of Dark-Fire Types 22 and 23 also showed a decline from 2000. Production of Type 22, at 17.3 million pounds, was down 19 percent, while Type 23, at 1.56 million pounds, was down 22 percent from 2000. Type 35 production was down 3 percent to 1.63 million pounds. Dark-types final yields are: Type 22 - 2,700; Type 23 - 3,000; Type 35 - 2,500 pound per acre, a new state record.

RECORD HAY ACREAGE

Hay acreage, at 2,135,000, was up 100,000 acres from 2000 and a new state record. Frequent and timely late summer rains proved beneficial to pastures and hay fields which provided producers the opportunity to cut more acreage than normal during 2001. All Hay production, at 4.78 million tons, was also a new state record, surpassing the previous record in 2000 by 1 percent. Other Hay final yield was 2.2 tons per acre, down only 0.1 ton from a year earlier. Alfalfa producers harvested 35,000 acres, unchanged from 2000 with a yield of 3.9 tons per acre, up 5 percent from 2000 and a new state record. Total alfalfa production at 137,000 tons, was up 5 percent from 2000. Alfalfa seedings for 2001 were 6,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from the previous year.

WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE FOR 2002 DOWN 14 PERCENT

Total wheat acreage for 2002 is forecast at 430,000 acres, down 14 percent from the 2001 planted area. Winter wheat producers were busy preparing the 2002 winter wheat crop in September, but the lack of rain hindered seeding resulting in only a little over-half of the acreage being seeded by the first of November. By month’s end, however, the majority of the 2002 crop had been seeded, slightly behind normal.

Crop Estimates: Tennessee and United States, Final 2001, with Comparisons

| Crop | Unit | Harvested Acres | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | |
|---------------------|------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| | | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 |
| | | Thousands | | Number of Units | | Thousands | |
| TENNESSEE | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 9,500 | 9,500 |
| Corn for grain | bu. | 580 | 620 | 114 | 132 | 66,120 | 81,840 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 565 | 615 | 603 | 761 | 710 | 975 |
| Cottonseed | ton | — | — | — | — | 289.0 | 375.0 |
| Hay, All | ton | 2,035 | 2,135 | 2.32 | 2.23 | 4,730 | 4,757 |
| Other | ton | 2,000 | 2,100 | 2.30 | 2.20 | 4,600 | 4,620 |
| Alfalfa | ton | 35 | 35 | 3.70 | 3.90 | 130 | 137 |
| Peaches | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2,500 | 4,000 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 1,150 | 1,050 | 25.0 | 34.0 | 28,750 | 35,700 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 46.02 | 39.57 | 2,085 | 2,135 | 95,958 | 84,465 |
| E. Dark-fired (22) | lb. | 7.7 | 6.4 | 2,760 | 2,700 | 21,252 | 17,280 |
| W. Dark-fired (23) | lb. | .64 | .52 | 3,125 | 3,000 | 2,000 | 1,560 |
| Burley (31) | lb. | 37.0 | 32.0 | 1,920 | 2,000 | 71,040 | 64,000 |
| One-sucker (35) | lb. | .68 | .65 | 2,450 | 2,500 | 1,666 | 1,625 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 380 | 340 | 55.0 | 54.0 | 20,900 | 18,360 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 10,648,700 | 9,560,400 |
| Corn for grain | bu. | 72,440 | 68,808 | 136.9 | 138.2 | 9,915,051 | 9,506,840 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 13,053.0 | 13,810.0 | 632 | 698 | 17,188.3 | 20,084.0 |
| Cottonseed | ton | — | — | — | — | 6,435.6 | 7,533.0 |
| Hay, All | ton | 59,854 | 63,511 | 2.54 | 2.47 | 151,921 | 156,703 |
| Other | ton | 36,777 | 39,699 | 1.95 | 1.93 | 71,574 | 76,437 |
| Alfalfa | ton | 23,077 | 23,812 | 3.48 | 3.37 | 80,347 | 80,266 |
| Peaches | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2,599,800 | 2,537,300 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 72,408 | 73,000 | 38.1 | 39.6 | 2,757,810 | 2,890,572 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 472.43 | 432.64 | 2,229 | 2,314 | 1,052,998 | 1,000,936 |
| E. Dark-fired (22) | lb. | 11.80 | 9.70 | 2,896 | 2,768 | 34,167 | 26,850 |
| W. Dark-fired (23) | lb. | 4.44 | 3.62 | 3,360 | 3,257 | 14,920 | 11,790 |
| Burley (31) | lb. | 185.40 | 164.50 | 1,957 | 2,125 | 362,788 | 349,575 |
| One-sucker (35) | lb. | 3.78 | 3.45 | 2,901 | 2,662 | 10,966 | 9,185 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 35,072 | 31,295 | 44.7 | 43.5 | 1,566,023 | 1,361,479 |

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima Cotton.